



Brinkley Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22)

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I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

1900 04 04

The following appointments of parish constables were made: Burwell, H. Martin; Brinkley, F. Geo. Howard; Cheveley, J. Nicholls; Chippenham, A. Duffield; Dullingham, J. Smith; Fordham G.R. Godfrey; Isleham, J. Dilley; Soham H. Rouse; Wicken, W. Barton; Wood Ditton J.J. Howe & C. Cates.

1904 02 11

Police told Linton magistrates that most public houses were satisfactorily conducted. But the landlord of the Swan, Linton had not exercised control over his guests, the publican of the Three Hills at Bartlow had been convicted of fighting with another publican from Brinkley outside the Montford Arms, Horseheath and the landlord of the Wheatsheaf beerhouse, Duxford had permitted people to remain in his house when drunk. The licence of the Pear Tree, Hildersham was transferred from Frederick Peters to George Gibson

1909 10 29

A girl boarded-out at Brinkley had a peculiar disease described as a band of music within her. It sounded so loud that it could be heard throughout the school and when she was upstairs the sounds could be heard all through the house. She had been sent to the Workhouse Infirmary and after some months the band was silent. But then it had started again. It was no matter for joking, it was a very serious matter indeed, Newmarket Guardians were told. CDN 09 10 29

1911 07 21

Brinkley Park church parade 11 07 21a

1922 07 20

A meeting was held in the Great Wilbraham Schoolroom with reference to a proposal to join the parish churches of Great and Little Wilbraham under one benefice. The Rev H.H. Appleford, vicar of Great Wilbraham objected to the union. It would prevent men taking orders and it was a failure at Brinkley. No man, however strong or young, could work practically three parishes as Six-Mile-Bottom was almost as good as a separate parish. At present it was two miles from its parish church. But if it was joined to Westley it would be over three by road and over two by short cuts over the fields. He had measured the distance on his motor cycle, and the way to Westley was more uphill

1924 02 02

An inquiry was held into establishing a water supply for Dullingham, Brinkley, and Borough Green. In normal times the supply of water to Brinkley was sufficient for their needs. But there was only one pump and in dry seasons the people had to go very early in the morning and wait a long time. Mrs Webb of Dullingham, said they had not been able to get enough water to wash their clothes, and she could not fancy drinking it after she saw a rat going into the well. The rector of Borough Green considered the proposal absurd. There was no public water supply. The majority of the cottages were owned by absolutely poor people, everybody was jolly hard up, and now was not the time to put a large expense for a useless object on the backs of the ratepayers.

1928 04 23

Brinkley tractor accident, p6

1934 07 30

It is only a year since Sir Hugh and Lady Ripley went to reside at Brinkley Hall but they been instrumental in making village life much brighter. They have formed branches of the Women's Institute and British Legion and held a garden fete to raise funds with cocoanut shies, Aunt Sally, bowling for a pig, clock golf, treasure hunt and darts. There was a lady whose dress contained 100 pockets in which there were presents while Monty the Dalmatian invited people to guess the number of his spots. Haverhill Co-operative band played for dancing on the lawn in the evening. 34 07 30

1935 08 06

Brinkley British Legion standard was dedicated in the grounds of Brinkley Hall. The Bishop of Ely said they owed a debt to those who had laid down their lives during war and also to the tens of thousands of men maimed, wounded, invalided, blind and incapable of profitable employment. He called on the ordinary man to exert himself in the cause of peace and pointed out the results of dictatorship 35 08 06

1936 03 26

Sewage schemes Cheveley Park, Soham, Burwell water, Swaffham Bulbeck ditches and Brinkley smells 36 03 26a

1940 03 15

Sacrifice for Finland. There can be few people (writes Watchman) who have made a greater sacrifice in this country for Finland's cause than Mr. R. E. Way, M.A., of Brinkley. Mr. Way has three farms at Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire, and keeps a number of thoroughbred mares at his Hall Stud there, and only recently he purchased a stallion named The Hour. Mr. Way was a familiar figure in the hunting field with the Newmarket and Thurlow Hounds, and his love for horses of all kinds is only equalled by his love for dogs; his large Irish wolfhound was usually to be seen with him when he was walking or riding round his land. Three years ago Mr Way started the Burgh herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle, which this year won several prizes at the agricultural shows. Keenly interested in all matters concerning the countryside, Mr Way was a member of the Newmarket Rural District Council and of various societies. Yet he willingly left all at a few hours' notice to go and join the British contingent of the International Volunteer Force which he regarded as a crusade. Previously he had been rejected for the British Army. Mr Way's employees have been watching the recent moves in the Finnish-Russian war with special interest and they are all hoping that the conclusion of hostilities will result in Mr Way's early return

1941 01 03

A Brinkley Nonagenarian. Everybody in Brinkley, and also people in surrounding villages, will congratulate Mr. Richard Hart on attaining his 90th birthday. They will also wish him continued good health through 1941. Mr Hart still helps in the engineering shop of Messrs. T. Hart and Sons, and is completing his 48th year's churchwarden. He served his apprenticeship in the days when trains were still a sufficient novelty to make the people go to the station to watch the morning train come in.

1943 01 29 Golden Wedding.—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Taylor, of Grebe Farm, Brinkley, celebrated their golden-wedding on Tuesday. January 19. Mr. Taylor, who is 78, and enjoys good health, was born in the village. He was a parish constable for 25 years and a school manager for nearly 40 years. They have a family of ten all of whom are still alive, and seven were present at a party. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor received nine telegrams of congratulations and a large number of presents.

1952 07 04

For over 50 years Arthur Hart has been organist at the Brinkley parish church, which the Bishop of Ely described as "a magnificent record". Mr Hart said that long service was not unusual. Mr Missen had been a member of the choir for 33 years, and before that a member of the church for 22 years. The Rector said the 100-year-old organ was a museum piece: "I don't believe there is another organ in the whole of England like it, but no one could play it like Mr Hart. During his long period as organist nothing has had to be done to it".

1953 06 26

A recent decision by St Ives Council to break up and dispose of an historic Fenland lighter – presented last year – has had serious repercussions. Before donating it as a museum-piece Mr R. Cory of Brinkley had received several offers for its purchase from people wishing to convert it into a house-boat. The hatches were not perfect but it could easily have been repaired. There was a considerable 'bash' in the bow as a result of an accident on its last trip when carrying sugar beet. It had sunk because of heavy rain, strong winds and a lack of interest and attention. A half-hearted attempt had

made to raise it at the worst possible time. The barge is at present a total wreck outside the Norris Museum

1961 02 09

A former landlord of the Red Lion at Brinkley said that when he first took it he had only two or three customers a night. The rent was £1 a week and he had to employ a man to tend the piece of land which went with the premises. He did some decorating and put some furnishings in and the numbers increased. So he began to promote dances and functions, buying a car on the strength of it. But this was reckless. He had too many people helping him out at the pub, a lack of business knowledge and "too many friends", the bankruptcy court was told. 61 02 09a

1961 07 28

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They include Brinkley – 61 07 28 CIP

1975 09 27

Doctors lop Brinkley patients, p7

1986 05 09

Brinkley post office has been voted the Best Village Shop of the Year in Cambridgeshire. Almost every inch of Jackie Fane's counter, shelf and wall space is taken up with produce ranging from crab thermiodore and trout to seeds, sunglasses and scissors. The Community Council has also judged Les and Janet Reinemann of Haslingfield as Best Village Shopkeepers with Mr B. Patel of the Mace Stores Bassingbourn and Mr A. Garner of The Stores, Great Gidding, close behind. 86 05 09a